

Message Text

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECON ETRD BF

SUBJ: CONVENTION INFORMATION

REF: NASSAU 1157

1. BAHAMIAN MINISTRY OF TOURISM HAS BELATEDLY CONTRIBUTED SOME ESTIMATES OF CONTRIBUTIONS OF US CONVENTION ACTIVITIES TO BAHAMIAN TOURISM. FULL TEXT OF ESTIMATES AND FIGURES ON WHICH SAME ARE BASED POUCHED ARA/CAR. FOLLOWING STATMENTS AND STATISTICS EXTRACTED FROM MINISTRY SUBMISSION.

2. 60 PERCENT OF BAHAMIAN HOTEL BUSINESS IS WITH GROUPS, INCLUDING VACATION TOURS. BETWEEN 30-40 PERCENT OF US TOURISTS IN BAHAMAS ARE ON CONVENTIONS OR BUSINESS MEETINGS, OF WHICH FIGURE 6-8 PERCENT ENGAGED IN ASSOCIATION MEETINGS AFFECTED BY PROPOSED LEGISLATION. IN ABSOLUTE FIGURES 30-40 PERCENT WOULD BE 240,000 - 320,000 INDIVIDUALS, SPENDING BETWEEN 72 AND 96 MILLION DOLLARS. DOLLAR FIGURE FOR THREATENED ASSOCIATION CONVENTIONEERS WOULD BE BETWEEN 14 AND 19 MILLION DOLLARS PER ANNUM. DOLLAR FIGURES ARE PROBABLY UNDERESTIMATED, MINISTRY BELIEVES, BECAUSE THEY ARE EXTRAPOLATED FROM GENERAL TOURIST SPENDING RATES, AND CONVENTIONEERS SPEND MORE MONEY THAN AVERAGE TOURISTS.

SPIERS

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